



Department of Justice

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District of Montana

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Shawn Michael Nash, a 33-year-old resident of Billings, was sentenced today to a term of 60 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to coercion and enticement of a minor. Nash was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100 and will be under supervision for 5 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In September of 2005, an FBI agent was working undercover in an Internet chat room posing as a girl under the age of 16 when the agent was contacted by Nash. Nash proceeded to engage the “girl” in almost immediate discussions of her young age, his age of 32, and sexual matters.

Nash and the “girl” engaged in a number of conversations over the next several weeks. Nash then arranged to meet the “girl” in Billings to have sex with her. Nash repeatedly noted that he would go to jail due to the “girl’s” young age and his concern that he would be caught and arrested when they had sex.

On October 18, 2005, Nash traveled from his home at 11:30 p.m. to meet with the “girl” for sex. When Nash arrived at the meet site, he was arrested.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the “truth in sentencing” guidelines mandate that Nash will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Nash does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for “good behavior.” However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

“This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more

information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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